THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The number of job-seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 28.2.1987 (latest available) was 305.13 lakhs.

(b) The number of medical and engineering graduates including post-graduates who were on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 30.6.1986 (latest available) was 0.26 and 0.39 lakhs respectively.

(c) Information not available.

Equal pay for Male and Female employees

1033. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several companies refuse to pay female employees salary equal to that paid to male employees;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the plea of M/s. Mackinon Mackenzie and Co. that women employees cannot be paid wages equal to men; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to end this discrmination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Some cases of non-payment of equal wages to female workers have come to the notice of Government. The Equal Remuneration Act which provides for the payment of remuneration to men and women for doing the same work or work of a similar nature also provides for authorities to decide claims and complaints under the Act, and for prosecutions to be taken up for violations of the Act. As and when a violation is detected or a complaint comes to the notice of Government, appropriate action is taken under the Act.

(b) Yes Sir. In the case of M/s. Mackinon Mackenzie and Company the affected woman employee sought relief before the competent authority and subsequently before the appellate authority under the Equal Remuneration Act. The relief was granted. Against these orders the Company went on appeal to the Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court but lost their case.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Supply of defence Equipments to Sri Lanka by Pakistan

1034. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the supply of $ 1m defence equipment to Sri Lanka by Pakistan and also to the training of Sri Lanka army personnel;

(b) whether this action of Pakistan is likely to hamper peace efforts in Sri Lanka; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard especially in view of the presence of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government have seen press reports regarding the supply of defence equipment by Pakistan to Sri Lanka. Government are also aware of defence training by Pakistan to Sri Lanka Army personnel.

(b) Government is convinced that there can be no military solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. Anything which encourages a resort to the military option at the expense of political negotiations is bound to hinder the peace progress.

(c) Our concern at the violence and the military action affecting civilians has been made known. Government will continue its efforts to create conditions where in talks aimed at a political settlement can be resumed between the parties concerned.

Engaging of foreign agencies for sales promotion

1035. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC has any marketing tie-ups with foreign agencies, like OHR, Trust House, etc. instead of using the officers of DOT and Air India abroad for its sales promotion;

(b) if so, what is the justification for having tie-ups with foreign agencies in the light of fee paid and the business directly given by these foreign agencies; and

(c) what are the terms of agreement and the quantum of accommodation got booked through each of the foreign agencies during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The Offices of the Department of Tourism and Air India abroad promote tourism in general to the country. The three marketing tie ups abroad (viz. Odner Hotel Representatives, Trust House Forte and Golden Tulip Worldwide Hotels) provide professional marketing and reservation facilities to ITDC hotels through their sales net work in different parts of the world at a nominal cost against high cost of direct overseas advertising and/or opening own offices for this purpose. The details of these tie ups indicating the fees is given in the Statement-I. (*See* below)

Statement-II showing the business given and the bookings received from these tie ups is given below.

Statement-I

1. *Odner Hotels Representatives (OHR)*

ITDC has appointed M/s OHR, Hong Kong as its General Sales Agent in the Far-East w.e.f. 1-1-85 for initial period of three years. The retainership fee is US 15000 dollars payable quarterly (60000 US dollars annually). Effective 1st May, '86, the fee has been reduced to US 40000 dollars.

An overriding commission of 9 per cent on FIT bookings are allowed to M/s. OHR i.e. 9 per cent would be allowed over and above the 10 per cent commission to travel agents, if the booking is through travel agent.

4 per cent overriding commission is allowed on group traffic i.e. 4 per cent would be allowed to OHR over and above the 10 per cent if bookings received through travel agent.

Otherwise normal 9 per cent commission is allowed to OHR if FIT bookings are not received through travel agent.

The contract includes 25 ITDC properties and the Ashok Travel & Tours for initial period of three years.

2. *Golden Tulip Worldwide Hotels*

This agreement came into being from 1-10-85 for an initial period of two years. The retainership fee is US 27750 dollars and covers all ITDC properties.

Handling Fee

Handling fee of 5 per cent of the average room rent per reservation transaction is agreed.

3. *Trusthouse Forte (THF)*

ITDC has also entered into an associate hotel agreement with M/s Trusthouse Forte Ltd. (UK) for 5 properties viz. Hotel Ashok, Hotel